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**New mayor**  
April Jeffs prepares to take over top job in Wainfleet; Page 3

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Former Port councillor seeks Tory nod Page 7

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Petition makes a case for seniors of low income; page 14

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# INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 46 VOLUME 14

For news updated daily see [www.inportnews.ca](http://www.inportnews.ca)

## WATERFRONT

### New beach opens

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Beach goes in the township have a new place to soak up the sun's rays in the summer.

Last week, regional chair Peter Pattinson and Mayor Barb Henderson officially opened a new public beach on Lakeshore Rd. in Wainfleet.

see BEACH A2

See inside:

**INSERTS**  
Full Distribution

**Lea's**

**MILK CALENDAR**

**homes**  
Selected Areas

**M&M**  
MEAT SHOP

## FIELD: New Jersey pilot lands due to poor visibility

# Helicopter makes emergency landing



Kathy Prochownik stands in front of a helicopter that landed behind her Miller Rd. home in Port Colborne on Sunday afternoon. The pilot, Steve Dalagi of New Jersey, had to land due to poor weather.

DAVE JOHNSON  
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Kathy and Stan Prochownik got quite a surprise Sunday afternoon when a helicopter made an emergency landing in a field behind their Miller Rd. house.

"I was decorating a tree and Stan was upstairs on the computer," Kathy said. "I heard the helicopter come by really low."

She looked out and saw a white helicopter and thought maybe it was headed to an accident over on Hwy. 140, but it circled back around her house and landed in a farmer's field.

"It lifted off and came down a little closer," she said. "I was getting a little worried so I called the police. I didn't know what was going on."

see HELICOPTER A2

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## ■ BEACH



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Wainfleet Mayor Barb Henderson and Regional Chair Peter Parfitt stand on a new beach opened in the township Friday.

## Region, township partner

FROM PAGE A1

"It's important for everyone to have access to beaches," said Parfitt, adding the Region has a strategy to maximize public access to waterfront across Niagara; to increase public ownership of waterfront lands; to preserve and protect the environment and heritage areas; and to establish uses of waterfront lands that will benefit as many people as possible.

"I have been personally committed to the project and public ownership of waterfront areas and it gives me great satisfaction to have led regional council during the successful purchase of the 400 feet (122 metres) of waterfront property to future generations to enjoy," Parfitt said.

The new beach in Wainfleet has a graded parking lot with trails leading to the water. The area is a natural habitat for the Fowler's Toad, an endangered species, which required special consideration of design and access. Regional staff designed the

new beach parking lot and access trails.

Henderson viewed the opening of the beach as a celebration and said beach access was on the minds of township residents during the official plan review process.

"It was something residents wanted and we listened to them. It also shows good things can happen when you work with your partners," Henderson said.

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority chair Doug Ransom said the conservation authority was very happy to be a part of the process.

Ransom said it's important the general public has access to property such as the one on Lakeshore Rd.

"We feel good about what's been done here and hope it's the first of many more to happen," he said.

Access to the lakefront is located at 24151 and 24153 Lakeshore Rd. in Wainfleet. Improvements included new parking, pathways and landscaping totalling \$167,046.

## ■ HELICOPTER

FROM PAGE A1

The helicopter, a white Aerospatiale (Eurocopter) AS355P2, took off one more time and landed closer to the Prochownik's home.

The couple went out to check on the helicopter and its pilot to make sure everything was OK.

"Stan asked him if he wanted to come in for a coffee."

The pilot — Steven Dalagi — told the Prochowniks he had been flying to Stoney Creek, from New Jersey, when he had to land because of the weather. He landed around 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

"I flew over the lake (Lake Erie) and after about five minutes there was a wall of clouds that came all the way down," said Dalagi, from his Willingboro, N.J.-based company Granite & Marble Concepts Inc.

Flying by VFR — Visual Flight Rules — meant he had no choice but to land when the bad weather decreased visibility to next to nothing. Niagara saw a lot of foggy weather over the last several days.

"It wouldn't have been safe to proceed," Dalagi said. "When the fog comes off the water like that it doesn't show up in the forecast."

While over the area, the pilot looked for a spot to land that wouldn't interfere with anyone and found the field by the Prochowniks. Their home is surrounded by farmers' fields.

Prochownik said Dalagi made a few phone calls once he was on the ground, the first

one being to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"When you fly internationally you have to file a flight plan," said Dalagi. A flight plan gives take off and landing times, the number of people onboard and the route being flown.

The reason he called the FAA right away was that it was getting close to the time when a search party would have been sent out. The FAA, he said, allows about a half hour leeway after a scheduled landing before it starts to look for a missing aircraft.

"He knew he was going to be late and he also called Toronto because he dropped off their radar," Prochownik said Dalagi told her and husband.

Dalagi's second phone call was to Canada Border Services Agency.

"I was supposed to land in Hamilton and contact

them there before heading to Stoney Creek."

He said the border agency could have asked him to wait at the helicopter, but instead gave him a special number, as it does with people who land in Canada via boat, to bbold on to.

Dalagi was the only person onboard the helicopter and didn't have anything with him. His stay in Canada was supposed to be a short one, with landing in Hamilton and then heading over to Stoney Creek's Hell-Lynx Helicopters, before heading to Buffalo for a flight home.

"He (Dalagi) told us he was going to get his blade transmission fixed," said Prochownik.

Dalagi said his helicopter was going into Hell-Lynx for warranty work. Once he saw the weather wasn't going to lift in time for him to make it to Stoney Creek, he decided to leave the hel-

icopter in the field behind the Prochowniks.

Prochownik said Niagara Regional Police spoke to Dalagi at the scene and offered to take him to the border so he could make his flight, but a person from Stoney Creek came down and gave him a ride to make his flight in time.

"The police said they'd never seen anything like this," said Prochownik, adding a lot of cars slowed down on Miller Rd. to look at the helicopter behind her house.

Prochownik said one of the other calls Dalagi made was to his wife back home to let her know what happened.

"He was a very nice man and we're glad he landed safely," she said.

A pilot from Hell-Lynx was scheduled to come to Port Colborne sometime Monday to fly the helicopter to Stoney Creek for the warranty work and Dalagi hoped to pick it up later this week.

Prochownik said Dalagi left instructions with Hell-Lynx to give the couple a quick flight if they were home when the pilot came. If they weren't, she said, she'd be home when the pilot came. If they weren't, she said, she'd be home when the pilot came.

Dalagi has been flying for about a year now, is up in the air two to three times a week and has racked up a lot of flight time.

"I fell in love with helicopters last January. Most pilots get in after 80 hours a year, I've had about 300 hours so far," he said.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

# 'We're glad he landed safely'



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A helicopter, owned by Steve Dalagi of New Jersey, sits in a field off of Miller Rd. home in Port Colborne. Dalagi had to make an emergency landing on Sunday afternoon due to poor weather.

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djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

# Ready to serve

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Left to right: Lynn Walbourne, Donnie Baer, Linda Bidgood, Shari Chastelet, Jason Brozovic, Grant Jennings, Cheryl Roy, Deb Souder.

# portraits

■ **MAYOR:** April Jeffs and new council meet Dec. 7

## Ready to run the township

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — As the day April Jeffs takes over as mayor of Wainfleet draws closer, she's a jumble of emotions.

"I'm very excited. I'm getting antsy. I'm a little nervous," the mayor-elect said during an interview, the first since she won the election last month.

Jeffs knows there's a huge learning curve ahead as she prepares to take over the top job in the township, but she's ready for it.

"I'm a fast learner and have a pretty good handle on how things operate. I've been reading Robert's Rules of Order." In addition to reading the universally accepted book on how meetings should be run, Jeffs said attending council meetings over the past few years have also given her an idea of how things work.

She and the three new aldermen elected — only one councillor was re-elected — will take part in an orientation meeting later this month with township staff.

Jeffs said she would like to get some tips from Barb Henderson before the mayor leaves office. She hopes for an easy transition.

When she sits in the mayor's chair for the first time, Jeffs wants to ensure council works as a cohesive team.

"I know we're not going to agree on everything. I hope we can debate and still move the township forward. It isn't so much about what I want to see done over the next four years, it's what council and the community wants to see done."

She said going door-to-door during her election campaign gave her a very good handle on what the community would like to see.

"It was the best thing I could have done."

One thing she heard at the door was the sharing of ser-



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Wainfleet mayor-elect April Jeffs looks over some reports as she gets ready to take over the township's top job. Jeffs is excited, ambitious and nervous as the day draws closer.

VICES between Wainfleet and other municipalities.

"Bylaw enforcement and drainage were two things people talked about and it might be something council could review."

Jeffs said it's possible those positions could move back to Wainfleet instead of being shared, but things like cost have to be looked at first.

"We don't want to do anything that will hurt the

taxpayers."

High taxes were also a complaint she heard, with people wanting to know where their tax dollars are spent.

"We don't have things like sidewalks and street lighting"

Residents want to see township roads repaired and some, Jeffs said, have suggested that grading gravel roads all the time is more costly than tarring and chipping them.

Of course, residents also wanted to talk about the water-sewer — the Big Pipe — issue.

"We need to look at alternative methods to deal with the problem."

Homeowners along the lakeshore have been under a boil water advisory for a few years now as failing septic systems have leaked into water supplies.

"Residents are sick of this, to put it bluntly. If the problem was solved it would settle a lot of the anxiety across Wainfleet. People are afraid their taxes will go up without any benefit to them. People told me they maintain their septic systems and wondered why people along the lakeshore can't."

Reports on the issue are expected to come from Niagara Region sometime in the new year, but Jeffs said it's possible individual septic systems could be looked at and repaired or replaced, depending on when there was a problem with them.

With the Big Pipe issue being dealt with at the regional level, as well as locally, Jeffs plans to "work as hard as I can to become a strong voice at the region on Wainfleet's behalf." She won't know which regional council committees she'll sit on until her first regional council meeting.

She also wants to work with the region in relation to its culture plan. The culture plan is to build upon and coordinate the many existing cultural assets and activities to create a shared vision and action-plan for culture in Niagara.

"I think we can enhance the cultural assets we have here in Wainfleet, the trails and our festivals. We could look at maybe doing something with part of the Feeder Canal," she said.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

# INPORT NEWS

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inport@wellandtribune.ca

Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager

Dave Johnson, InPort News senior reporter

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## ourview Beach access

Beach goes in Wainfleet have a new place to soak up the sun's rays in the summer time thanks to a partnership between Niagara Region, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the township.

Last week, the beach, at 241.51 and 241.53 Lakeshore Rd., was officially opened, despite the sunbathing and swimming season being long over. The beach has a parking lot, trails leading to the beach and is landscaped to take into account the area is a natural habitat for the Fowler's Tawad, an endangered species.

Outgoing Mayor Barb Henderson said the beach showed how partnerships worked and viewed the opening as a celebration.

Henderson said beach access was very much on the minds of residents throughout the township's official plan process over the last 18 months.

Residents said they wanted a beach and they got one. While beach access is one thing township residents wanted, it is something the region is looking at elsewhere as part of its waterfront enhancement strategy. The strategy sets out to maximize public access to waterfront across the region; to increase public ownership of waterfront lands; to preserve and protect the environment and heritage areas; and to establish uses of waterfront lands that will benefit as many people as possible.

Despite being surrounded by two great lakes and the Niagara River, the region is sorely lacking in access to the waterfront.

Yes, there are public parks in Port Colborne and Wainfleet that are on the water, but the vast majority of land along the waterfront at across the region is privately-owned.

What makes things worse is that some of these properties own what are called water lots. People actually own the land under the water. So if a person were to take a walk down a beach in the water, a homeowner, if so inclined, could have that person charged with trespassing.

In Port Colborne, there's only two public beaches you can enjoy—Nickel and Centennial Park. There are beaches at the end of most allowances along the lakeshore, but in most cases those aren't much wider than 20 metres and aren't all sandy.

One place we would like to have seen this strategy put in effect was at the site of the former Lakeshore Camp. We undid Easter Seals sold to the highest bidder, and who wouldn't try and get the possible dollar for prime land, but it was a piece of property that should have been fought for by the township, region and whoever else could have helped. The land there would have made a prime natural park and a great beach.

That's why we'd like to see Port Colborne and Wainfleet work closer with the region on the waterfront enhancement strategy to turn more of the land along the lakeshore into public land and land that can be enjoyed by all.

## I'VE BEEN THINKING

# The in-between time

REV. STEVEN DAVIS  
Central United Church

November is a very strange month. It's not October. October is the high point of fall, with trees full of blazing colours, Thanksgiving and Halloween and still the warmth of the mid-day sun combined with cool nights.

October is wonderful. November is also not December. December is the start of winter. The cold air (and perhaps the snow on the ground) is fresh and invigorating.

Christmas beckons us, the hopefulness of a new year is on the horizon. December is wonderful.

But November is a very strange month. Although there's still the odd warm day, for the most part November is a cold month—too cold to be really comfortable, but not cold enough to be invigorating. November is a dark month.

As the clocks go back an hour we deal with what seems to be more and

more darkness as evenings approach. November is the prime example of an in-between time. It's not quite fall, and it's not quite winter. It's just November.

In many ways November serves as a great example of the state of the world. The world isn't where it was, but it hasn't arrived at where it's going.

I'm referring, of course, to the world as God wants it to be.

I'm writing this just a little while after returning from a Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph.

Is there any other day of the year that reminds me more strongly of the fact that the world is not as God wanted it and created it to be? He

Bible tells us that the world was created in a state of peaceful perfection—peace between people, peace between people and nature and peace within nature itself. The Bible tells us that God will restore that world that He created so long ago, so that once again there will be peace and harmony on the earth.

One day.

## readers'views

### Councillors should support proposed developments

Port Colborne city council should be supporting not suppressing growth in the Lakeside city. John Zarb is attempting to rebuild his business (Reeb House Tavern) and the Quarek Hotel. It is negligent to add to the landscape with the Old Humberside Village. Take the positives and work together for solutions to the questionable drawbacks. Expand the tunnel vision—leave the curbs and tree-lined facades to the Toronto skyline and despite general belief by a neighbour or two "the island" is not regarded or even counted as a Muskoka cottage-like paradise. Lame duck councillors with just days remaining in their terms should refrain from adding their negative views.

Barry Tuttle  
Port Colborne

### Further regionalization not wanted in south Niagara

This is in response to out-going regional Chairman Peter Partington and his cry for a more unified Niagara. With all due respect, I believe Partington speaks for St. Catharines.

To talk to the people in the south and I believe they will have a different view. Having lived in Port Colborne for 54 years, I feel like responding sarcastically:

"Sure that's great, as long as all government buildings and agencies are located in St. Catharines."

When we think of what Port Colborne was before regionalization and what it is now, we have lost so much. Through the years access to essential services has been removed from a population that is documented to be the oldest and poorest in the region.

The final straw is when the region as a whole looked the other way as life-saving services were removed from Port Colborne and Fort Erie hospitals. For the new regional council genuinely wants to act as "one city" I urge it to jointly call for a review to evaluate how the hospital improvement plan being implemented by Niagara Health System is actually working for all the citizens of Niagara.

Pat Schofield  
Port Colborne

### Development needed in Port

For over a year now, we have been faced with different views on the wellness centre in Port Colborne.

Should we or shouldn't we, and especially, who is going to pay for it?

It seems that people concerned with taxes going up because of the new facility, are the same people who oppose residential development.

Is it not clear that bringing residents to a community provide more taxpayers and shoppers? Do people not get it that

But today is like November. It's an in-between time—a time when we look back with nostalgia and look ahead with hope, but when we often wonder what's going on in the world around us.

We need to take advantage of the in-between times. We need to use them as an opportunity to enrich our lives, and from the perspective of faith, that means coming closer to God.

The questions we have about the world as it exists right now are questions that we can only work out through the relationship we choose to enter with our God. God grants us this time to approach Him with our questions and our fears and our uncertainties so that we can be reminded of God's presence in the midst of it all.

November is a very strange month, but I admit there's one thing I really do like about it. My birthday falls in November! This in-between time for the world is somewhat similar. It represents for us the opportunity to claim new life by choosing to place ourselves in the hands of God.

as a community, in need of new services, upgrading old ones, etc., money is needed to complete these projects?

So, if you are constantly complaining that you don't want taxes to go up, but you want roads, sewers, water lines, new recreational facilities etc. improved— you are missing the whole point.

The more people you have to split the costs, the less you will have to pay.

The recent opposition to the Old Humberside Village development by the councillors is an outrage.

Not liking the "look" of a pond? Come on, people, this is a huge opportunity to have a beautiful development close to our 8500 street revitalization zone.

That will also bring new business to service these new residents.

Look at Burlington. It had the same old, empty downtown as Port Colborne.

Now, it's revitalized streets and the waterfront offers residents and tourists an incredible shopping and living experience.

I cannot understand why some people just don't want change.

How a beautiful new condo development would cause existing properties to lose their value is ridiculous. Just the opposite.

I hope our new council will see its way clear to welcoming progress and development in our city. Continued opposition to development is not fiscally responsible.

L. Sloat  
Port Colborne

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## ■ COLUMN

# As John Lennon said, 'So this is Christmas ...'

Christmas is supposed to be the "most wonderful time of the year," if a seasonal ditty by Andy Williams is to be believed.

But for many in our area, it isn't, not by a long shot.

It's simply a time of the year that reaffirms how sad their lives are, how they can't provide for their families while others around them can. Or how alone they really are, either having lost family members to illness or having lost love in one form or another.

But here in our town, there's help.

Port Cares, our amazing social service/justice centre runs two Christmas-oriented programs — Adopt a Family and Give a Gift.

Judy Cassan, manager of client services at Port Cares and an old dear and very special friend for whom I have incredible admiration and respect, says what makes the programs unique is the



George Duma  
BY GEORGE

fact people don't come in and register for them as is the case with many other such programs around Niagara.

Adopt a Family, for example.

During the course of the year, all the program managers identify people who otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas if we didn't help," she says. "Our clients are simply people who are moving along in the continuum and somehow they got smacked in the head, through no fault of their own."

The folks come from all walks of life. They can include seniors on fixed incomes. They can be teens living on their own, trying to make a go of it by staying in school

while being expected to live on \$664 a month through Ontario Works.

They can be the working poor, folks who are working full-time but still find they're deciding between paying the heat for the month or eating. Christmas, obviously, is a pipe dream for these unfortunate people.

"These are people who wouldn't ask," Judy explains, "seniors especially. It doesn't take much. It's not volume, it's the fact somebody thought of them. We give them a couple of small things and they're just thrilled."

Gift cards are extremely popular with seniors.

"It can be a coupon for Harvey's/Swiss Chalee, just so they can get out and go for a meal."

Teens are another group on Port Cares' radar.

"They don't expect much and they're so happy to be getting anything. Clothes are extremely popular — a pair of jeans, a winter jacket that actually covers their arms. Underwear and socks."

Judy says the two programs are a lot of additional work for staff but the rewards are so gratifying.

"To see a teen open a gift and find a laundry basket filled with a box of laundry soap and other soaps and toothpaste and stuff and go 'Aight!' It brings tears to your eyes."

Give a Gift is exactly what it says. Folks around Port Colborne call in to find out what's needed and then go shop for it. They drop off the

gifts at Port Cares and the organization's staff members see that those gifts are distributed.

"One businessman (who requests anonymity) in town spends \$2,400 each Christmas on six teens — \$400 per teen — young people who are living on their own and trying to get ahead. He gets their list and he goes shopping for them. He makes sure each one gets equal value to the others and if there's something one of them perhaps doesn't need that the other gets, he'll give that one a gift card instead."

"This is why the extra work isn't a chore," Judy explains, "but rather a labour of love."

Adopt a Family and Give a Gift are but two examples of

the work that goes on around Niagara each Christmas. Many of these types of organizations — like Port Cares — do this type of work year-round but they go the extra mile at Christmas.

But then there are specific Christmas-time groups like Santa's Helpers and Community Christmas Toys, where families can register and then go "shopping" for gifts for the kids in the families.

Niagara's food banks all reach out to their respective communities through the media and through church groups, asking for an increase in donations at this time of year so nobody has to go without.

see DUMA A6

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# We can always do more to help food banks

FROM PAGE A5

We just went through another successful food drive here in Port that helped fill the shelves but we can still do more.

There are many, many Christmas dinners being served throughout Niagara either the day before Christmas or the day itself, Dec. 25, like our own annual one.

The responsibility lies within each of us to educate ourselves and try to go the extra mile (kilometre?) to try and do what we can.

The "most wonderful time of the year?" Indeed, on so many levels Andy Williams had it nailed.

Sadly, however, for so many, it just isn't. But it can be, if we all pitch in and work together to make it so.

As John Lennon sang so long ago, "So this is Christmas ... And what have you done?"

There are organizations eager to make Christmas special for everybody. They just can't do it all by



Judy Cassan, manager of client services at Port Cares, and her colleagues are running two Christmas-oriented programs.

themselves.  
And it's why, for the family

that has enough "stuff," it's  
the perfect gift to give to

one another. By all means,  
pick up a few things to place

under the Christmas tree and  
open on Christmas Eve or

## Need to know ...

Call 905-834-3829 to see how you can help the Port Cares Adopt a Family and Give a Gift programs.

Christmas morning, whatever your tradition is.

But if you have all the big-ticket items you'll ever need, consider going out as a family and shopping for those who don't have anywhere near what you do. Helping out an unfortunate family in need is such a strong bonding tool.

Let's all help Port Cares and any other organization trying to bring a happy time to all at what should be such a glorious season of the year. Merry Christmas, indeed.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the Journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@cogeco.ca

## Doug Mann

*Supporting quality healthcare, close to home.*

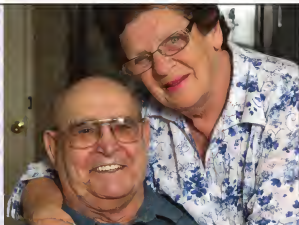
Over the past 15 years, Doug Mann has gone from walking with a cane to using a walker, then an electric scooter and now a power chair. The total effects of his disease truly hit home when one of their great-grandchildren said 'Nana I don't remember Papa ever walking by himself.'

It was on a vacation to Las Vegas with his wife of 58 years, Isobelle, that he first felt something wrong with his legs.

"It felt funny," he says. "The second day I couldn't lift it up onto a curb."

Donations to Welland Hospital Foundation brought *Quality Healthcare, Close to Home* and made a difference for Doug. Won't YOU make a difference for someone you know?

► To read Doug's full story go to  
<http://www.niagarahealth.on.ca/foundations/wh>



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## ■ CITY COUNCIL

## Snow buddies needed

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne is initiating a Snow Buddies program to help ensure seniors have assistance keeping their sidewalks and driveways safe and free of snow.

Patricia Regier of Community Support Services of Niagara, pitched the program that pairs a teenage volunteer with a senior in need to shovel snow, to council at its last meeting.

"Port Colborne has the highest number of falls for seniors in the area," Regier said. "It's really exciting we can roll this out to Port Colborne."

Snow Buddies reps have visited local high schools to encourage students to participate. Teens who want to accumulate volunteer hours and who want to help can fill out a volunteer application form at [www.cssn.on.ca](http://www.cssn.on.ca).

The program launched in St. Catharines last year was initiated in Port Colborne when the Safe Communities program identified falls in the community as being a preventable issue to tackle.

Seniors who need someone to shovel can call program coordinator Laurie Elliott Leach at 905-682-3800, ext. 28.

## ■ PROVINCIAL POLITICS

## Ursini seeks Ontario PC nod for Welland

ALLAN BENNER  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — After opting out of serving a third term on city council, Domenic Ursini has set his sights on the province.



Domenic Ursini

Ursini, who announced last spring that he would not be seeking re-election as a Ward 2 city councillor, is instead vying to lead the Welland riding Conservatives for next fall's provincial election. In a prepared statement, Ursini said change is needed at Queen's Park to get the riding and province "back on track."

"Lost jobs, health-care cuts and constant attacks on the family budget are (Premier) Dalton McGuinty's legacy for the Welland riding."

Ursini, who has lived in the Welland riding throughout his life, said he's proud of his record serving constituents of Port Colborne on city council.

# Victims Matter.



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## ALONG THE LAKESHORE

## SUNDAY, NOV. 21

St. Joseph's (Snyder) Catholic Women's League is holding its Christmas Bazaar, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pork on a bun, fresh baked cinnamon buns, and homemade apple crisp on the menu. Silent Auction, penny table, bake table and craft table as well as games for the children. We

have beautiful Christmas baskets packaged up and ready for gift giving. Everyone welcome. St. Joseph's Hall is at the corner of Netherby and Sodom Rds.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 25

Classic Book Club at the Wanless Township Public Library from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for afternoon tea

on the last Thursday of the month as we discuss the works of classic authors. This month's selection is Cranford by Emily Gaskell. Please call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member. Limited copies of each book will be available for loan to book club members.

## AT THE PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Art in the Atrium: "The Subject is Clear: an Exhibition of Paintings in

Pastel" by Ray Baecher. In the Atrium, October 15, 2010 to January 15, 2011.

Kids' Yoga with Nadia Esposito. For ages 4 to 11. From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. New six week session begins Tuesday, November 2nd to December 7th. Cost is \$25 per session or \$5.00 per drop-in. To register call Nadia at 905-329-9841.

Create with Kathleen: Adult art classes with Kathleen Thorsen of Stone House Art Gallery. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, starting September 7th. Cost is \$10.00 per class, materials supplied. Ongoing. For more

information, contact Kathleen by phone at 905-834-9784 or by email at: kathleen.thorsen@cogeco.ca.

Small Hands Studio: Art Workshops for Children. With Kelly Langley Davies. Painting, drawing and sculpting. Mondays, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., September 13, 2010 to June 27, 2011. Four-week session fee is \$55.00. Five-week session fee is \$65. Save \$5 per child per session when you book two or more sittings in the same session. Call Kelly at 905-834-9483 for more information.

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■ **REBUILD:** Bridge wider and now has bike lanes

# O'Reilly's Bridge open

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — O'Reilly's Bridge opened last Friday after an almost two-year closure.

The former one-lane iron-framed bridge was replaced with a two-lane flat bridge at the same location.

O'Reilly's Bridge is a historic link between Weinfield and Pelham over the Welland River near Niagara Central Airport. It is the only crossing between Beckett's Bridge

on Regional Rd. 24 and the Webber Rd.-Lincoln St. crossing in Welland.

At the end of March, in a spectacular lift, a crane raised the old 40-tonne structure off its moorings and moved it to the river bank.

Crews dismantled the frame, built in the early 1900s. Parts of it will become a historical monument on the west side of the river. Niagara Region, which owns the bridge, will tell the story of various bridges that crossed the river this point

along the river.

Unlike the narrow, one-lane frame bridge, the new \$2.8-million bridge has two lanes with cycling and pedestrian pathways. It also has decorative siding to celebrate the bridge's historical significance.

Contracts for construction, planning and supervision had been awarded to Brennan Paving Ltd. of the Miller Group, McCormick Rankin Corp. and Ellis Engineering.

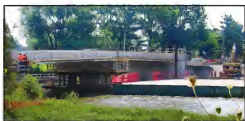
Next spring, about \$500,000

worth of approach-road work and landscaping will be done.

The region closed the old bridge in January 2008 because of safety concerns about the structure and the weight it could carry.

The new open bridge is expected to ease crossings for farmers with wide equipment who could not use the old bridge.

wcampbell@  
wellandtribune.ca



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

After nearly two years of construction, O'Reilly's Bridge linking Weinfield and Pelham reopened last week.

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## Portal Village Christmas Craft Show & Progressive Auction

Friday, November 19th, 2010  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Portal Village Retirement Home  
300 Elgin Street, Port Colborne

**Progressive Auction • Bake Table**

All proceeds from the sale are used for the benefit of the Portal Village residents, (special music entertainment, recreation/ educational programs, purchasing of videos, and more.

"Residents' Council is responsible for this distribution of the funds"

Also, "Old Fashion Claxton Fruit Cakes" will be available

**INDIAN RIVER DIRECT**  
CITRUS TRUCKLOAD SALE

## PORT COLBORNE

TUES. November 23, 12:30pm - 2:30pm  
190 Main Street, Moe's Tap & Wings

20th. box of Florida  
Seedless Naval Oranges  
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Box Price  
Just \$23.00

**Robert Wood Singers**  
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Present  
a celebration of the Christmas season—  
"Gifts Of Christmas"

Sunday, DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> • 2:30pm  
Centennial Secondary School,  
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Adults \$12 • Children 12 & under \$8

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

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- Chiropractic Associates of Port Colborne Killick St.
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*Let The Season Begin...*

You Are Invited to our Annual

## Christmas OPEN HOUSE

and  
**APPRECIATION DAY**

Saturday,  
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10:00am - 6:00pm

Refreshments & goodies will be served.

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**vs. FORT ERIE**

PHOTO: J. BROWN

■ FIRE: Building burnt down last year

# Rebuilding The Reeber

KAESHA FORD  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The owner of the Reeber House, which was reduced to rubble after an early-morning fire on Dec. 11, 2009, has been working diligently since January to get his beloved business rebuilt and filled with

patrons. But John Zarb has also run into a number of setbacks.

"I survived the fire and have been fighting to bring back the Reeber House," he told councillors last Monday night.

"I'm trying to bring back a landmark."

The 234-square-metre building where 20 people

were employed was reduced to rubble and the foundation was pulled out. The site where Hwy. 3 in Gasline splits into Killaly St. has since been vacant.

Zarb said his customers have been asking him on a regular basis when he will re-establish the business he ran for more than three years.

His first setback was with the Ministry of Transportation, which said he must move the new structure 13.5 metres back from where the original building stood, because both Hwy. 3 and Killaly St. are considered highways.

see REEB HOUSE A12



File photo

Port Colborne's historic Reeber House went up in flames in December 2009.



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\* Microwaveable

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on every \$40 you spend on CLOTHING and FOOTWEAR

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## REEB HOUSE

# Lots of hurdles to get popular bar reopened

FROM PAGE A11

Room must be left if Hwy. 3 was to be expanded. That created another problem because the new building would sit on his existing septic bed.

He has spent about \$45,000 to obtain pre-permits and drawings but he doesn't have a building permit.

"I'm asking for your help. I need to shorten the amount of time to put the place back," he

told politicians, noting his goal is the have a new 450-square-metre, two-storey restaurant and bar built for the spring.

"It's not like I'm putting a new business on a cornfield,"

Zarb's plan includes a

six- or eight-room inn. He hopes to get the foundation poured soon so construction can be complete by spring.

But he also faces a dilemma with the city. Following its urban guidelines, the business's new parking lot must be paved with curbs and lined by trees. Zarb said it will cost \$125,000 to pave the parking lot — a number so high he said it wouldn't be worth it for him to go in business if he had to incur costs like that.

"It will look like a downtown city location in the

country."

He said it would be easier and less expensive to purchase a downtown establishment and put up a Reeb House sign, but it's obvious he's passionate about giving Gasline and Sherston area folk a place to meet.

Ward 3 Coun. Gary Bruno is concerned about consultation with Zarb's neighbours. "We have to look out for their interests, there may be concerns."

City planning director Dan Aquilina said he was a few

crucial documents and site plans for the Reeb.

"If I could want to relax the site-plan process, they don't do so," he said, telling councillors they may make exemptions or fast-track some steps.

The suggestion struck a nerve with Ward 4 Coun. Barb Butters.

"There are still some steps that need to happen and (avoiding them is) not how we do business," she said.

Ward 4 councillor-elect Ron Bodner, who also lives in Gasline, said neighbours may have concerns about lighting, noise and parking, but he doesn't want to hold up the building process.

After a lengthy conversation, it was determined Bodner and Butters will facilitate a meeting with Zarb and neighbours to discuss and resolve any concerns.

Zarb will submit a site plan and other details to Aquilina with the hopes of revisiting the planning issue during the Nov. 22 meeting.

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### INPORT NEWS



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A Christmas Carol

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## ■ MCKAY ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST PROGRAM



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

The McKay Elementary School breakfast program got an extra boost on Friday from Young Automotive Professionals, which donated \$1,000. The daily program provides hot food, fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses and beverages. Junior kindergarten students Peyton Elliott and Wyatt Jones hold the donation while teacher AnnMarie Busch prepares the cart of food.

## THE CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

### WE APOLOGIZE

The InPort News apologizes to the Niagara Health System Port Colborne Library and the Citizens of Port Colborne for the incorrect advertisement which appeared in the InPort News on Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> about an Open House at the Port Library Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>. The advertisement should have read  
Open House meeting  
Port Colborne Site  
McKellar Hall  
Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>  
10 to 1.

9420294

## CHRISTMAS COLOURING CONTEST



### CONTEST RULES

1. Open to boys and girls ages 4-10
2. Deadline Saturday, December 18th
3. Prizes to be drawn Tuesday, December 21st

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Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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■ **PORT CARES:** Ground broken for expansion

## ‘Together ... we’ll bring this to reality’

KAESHA FORAND  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Infrastructure funding is helping to feed a need in Port Colborne.

With \$670,000 from the federal and provincial governments, secured through Infrastructure Stimulus Funding, Port Cares is expanding its Reach Out Centre to better serve its clients and to provide a central food bank.

A sod-turning ceremony was held at the Nickel St. centre last week to mark the beginning of its expansion, which will provide space for a commercial kitchen, community food bank, food storage and additional office space. Port Cares has raised \$200,000 of the \$335,000 needed for its shares of the project, which will be undertaken by Stolk Construction Ltd. of Port Colborne.

“It’s a very exciting day,” said Lynda Reinhardt, executive director of Port Cares. “Together we know we’ll bring this to reality.”

Expansion will allow for a variety of increased support services, volunteer opportunities and additional training.

Welland MP Malcolm Allen said Port Cares has perfected the one-stop-shop hub where clients can access



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Sod was officially turned Friday for the expansion of the Port Cares Reach Out Centre on Nickel St. At a small ceremony staff, volunteers and clients took the opportunity to mark the new beginning for the centre that serves hundreds of people every month.

a wide variety of services. He said when it comes to getting more value for taxpayers dollars, he tells members of Parliament about Port Cares and how much it does with its funding.

“Peter (Kormos) and I both know the need is here in Port Colborne,” he said. “I commend Lynda and her team at Port Cares, this is a great place... Port Cares truly is the model for one-stop shopping.”

The 234-square-metre expansion will take up the parking lot behind the facility.

A vacant parcel of land purchased two doors down from 61 Nickel St. was transformed into the new parking lot.

“It’s extremely exciting because we will finally be able to have our food storage under one roof and with a larger building we will offer a greater variety of services to our participants with cooking circles and kids programming,” said Reach Out centre manager Mary Anne Peagan.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

■ **PETITION:** Old age issues

## Fighting for seniors

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Seniors can’t be allowed to live in poverty so something needs to be done to ensure they don’t, say two local men fighting for the grey-haired set.

Welland MP Malcolm Allen and Friends Over 55 Social Centre president Jack O’Neill met to talk about seniors issues.

O’Neill also presented the MP with a few petitions that address such issues as the Canada Pension Plan (CPP)/Quebec Pension Plan (QPP), Old Age Supplement and other benefits.

“Our seniors built everything we have, they worked hard for us and we can’t allow them to live in poverty,” said Allen. “It’s a disgrace and would be a black mark against us if we allowed that to happen.”

Allen said, however, he sees a senior, he thinks of his mother — and that’s what pushes him to fight for them. O’Neill has been fighting for seniors for years now and wants to see their situations improve.

That’s why he started the petition on CPP/QPP, Old



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Welland MP Malcolm Allen and Jack O’Neill, president of Friends Over 55 Social Centre in Port Colborne, look over a petition dealing with seniors issues.

Age Supplement and other seniors benefits earlier this year. The petition was spread across the country thanks to Allen using his resources and that of fellow MPs in different parts of Canada.

While somewhat disappointed in the number of signatures garnered in Niagara

— only a couple of thousand — O’Neill hoped there would be more from across the rest of the country.

“It’s up to the people to help me in this fight. I can’t do it all by myself, I need backup and I need people to voice their opinions to the people in Parliament,” O’Neill said.

He said seniors need to have an increase in their Old Age Supplement and CPP, and the federal and provincial governments need to start doing more to help seniors.

“It’s time Mr. (Stephen) Harper looks after seniors in our country. They can no longer afford to live on next to nothing. I’m getting fed up with the way the government acts towards seniors,” he said.

Allen said with winter nearly upon us, seniors are going to have to start choosing between paying for food, heat or groceries; a decision they shouldn’t have to make.

“People are going to struggle, especially with HST on hydro now,” the MP said. “People can’t make ends meet.”

Allen said a motion was introduced in the House earlier this year to double the Old Age Supplement and it was passed by all parties.

“We’re just waiting on the government to act on it now.”

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

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■ **PROGRAM:** Annual program sees coats handed out to those in need

# Keeping kids warm

KAESHA FORAND  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Winter months can be hard for families struggling to get by.

There might not be money to buy new winter coats and winter accessories to stay warm.

In comes the Port Cares Coats for Kids and Families drive which collects new and gently-used coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, snow pants and boots.

At times, avid knitters donate bags of hand-made mittens and socks.

The Coats for Kids depot, at 176 Catharines St., is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday for people to drop off their items, or for people in need to come and select a

warm coat and accessories. No identification or information is needed to pick up

a coat. Port Cares client services manager Judy Cassan said



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Port Cares is again teaming up with Lightheart's Cleaners for the Coats for Kids and Families event. Client services staff member Britanny Lennie and Lightheart's manager Faye Shibley and employee Carolyn Brennan display some of the coats that have been donated.

last year there was a high demand for coats for people aged 24 to 54. Overall, the program helped about 300 people.

Cassan is thankful for the donations, especially people who purchase new coats specifically to be donated.

"It definitely is needed,"

she said of the program funded with support of the United Way.

Lightheart's Cleaners manager Faye Shibley said her business is more than happy to help the project.

"We want to help children and all families that need the extra help."

Coats for Kids and Families runs until Dec. 16, but Cassan said it might be extended. Any coats and winter accessories left over will be donated to Port Colborne elementary schools to help students in need.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

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■ REVIEW: 2011 Subaru Impreza WRX STI sedan

## STI rallies around family performance

JOE DUARTE  
QMI Agency



JOE DUARTE (QMI Agency)

The Subaru Impreza WRX is probably the best known performance sport compact on the planet. The STI version is basically a World Rally Championships (WRC) competitor... If you want to take along more than just a co-driver.

The WRX has been the performance version of the Impreza, since the brand's creation in 1993, pumping up the sure-footed and sporty Impreza with a turbocharged engine. The STI is a product of Subaru Tecnica International, Subaru's motorsports division, which pumps up the turbo-charged engine and adds a couple distinguishing features.

With the 2007 redesign of the Impreza and the adoption of the more aerodynamic hatchback for the rally races, Subaru decided to change the WRX and STI bodystyle to that of the Impreza four-door hatchback, which didn't really sit well with the young performance diehards who naturally gravitate to the breed. So for 2011, Subaru brings back the sedan bodystyle, and offers both hatch and sedan WRXs and STIs for the first time.

Personally, I find the hatch-back design much cleaner and simplistic than the sedan, but attractiveness in this market is judged by how much you stand out.

What we're really interested in is the 305-horsepower version of the turbo 2.5-litre horizontally opposed (otherwise known as "boxer") four-cylinder engine (the WRX version makes 265 hp). Blessed with 290 lb.-ft. of torque (the WRX makes 244), it launches the STI off a line seemingly with the force of a Titan missile.

The Subaru standard symmetrical all-wheel drive system makes sure all four tires are biting into the pavement as well as the surface feels like. Controls on the console allow the driver to manually lock up the centre differential at the push of a button (meaning both axes

get the same distribution of torque) or distribute the percentage via a rocker switch (for those drifting compenians when you need more rear bias but still want front grip).

Control of the engine power is handled by a slick six-speed manual that in the right hands offers the smoothness of a sequentially shifted automatic. The clutch is so smooth and progressive you practically just have to think about engaging it and it's done. Subaru's hill-holder system means you can launch the STI as quickly on an uphill as you can on a flat drag strip.

And the race inspired driver's office is the perfect perch from which to be an active participant in what is one of the market's best track-inspired production sedans. Everything you could possibly need is within sight and reach, however the optional Pioneer nav/sound system touchscreen is beyond frustrating to use.

The seating is grippy Alcantara and supportive, with rear passengers understandably getting a little claustrophobic around the knees. The rear seats don't have the bolster support of the front, but they still have the gippy inners.

You can get into an Impreza for as little as \$21,000 with the WRX available at \$32,500 and the STI from \$38,000. It's pricey but what else would you pick for a weekend driver run with the whole family on board?